

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 30. 1709.

IN my last I ventur'd to show you a few of your many Advantages from the Encrease of People from Foreign Nations—In Opposition to the Murmurs now so rise among us, about the present coming over of the *German* Protestants from the *Palatinate*; I have endeavour'd to oppose the general Clamour so natural to us, of their coming to eat the Bread out of our Mouths— Nothing is more certain, than that we have too much Bread for our Mouths, (ay, and Drink too by the way) and too much Wool for our Backs, and too much Work for our Hands— And this I shall in the Course of these Papers demonstrate upon many Occasions—But it is our Humour, we will wallow in Plenty, and

let no Body partake of it; we will let our Work be undone, tho' we are not able to do it our selves, rather than let other People help us do it.

I know, it is vain to talk of the unnatural Pride and Barbarity of this Temper **IN US, above all Mankind IN US**, who originally were all *Refugees* and *Shelterers* in the Shadow of *Britain's* Wealth and Fertility. And pray, Gentlemen, be not angry, when I say, you were all *Refugees* and *Shelterers*—For if you drive me from that, I must call you all *Invaders* and *Robbers* of your *Masters*, who came hither as *Mercenaries* and *Auxillaries*; then murder'd your *Masters*, or turn'd them out of *Doors* to possess their Lands—Like a *Servant* that gets into
you.

your Doors, to work and assist in the House, but falls upon his Master, destroys the Family, robs the House, and seizes his Estate—Such we hang now without Reprieve, a good Admonition to us, of what our Ancestors merited in this Place—But to avoid looking so far back, I choose, I say, to put you in mind of the several multiplying Additions of People in modern Ages, since recent History can lead us to the Particulars—And there we may most of us say, *A Syrian ready to perish was my Father*; but since I came into this Canaan, I am grown fat, and encreas'd as the Stars of Heaven for Multitude—And pray add to it—And now all the *Syrians* ready to perish—*May perish, if they will, for me*, for I will not have them come hither.

But tho' this were an Argument *ad Hominem*, especially to *True-Born-Englishmen*, as above, yet I avoid the Reflection, and chose to put you in mind, that the settling these poor People among us, is our visible Advantage—That it will be an Improvement to our Lands, an Encrease of our Wealth, and a Help to the Consumption of our Produce—And that if they are wisely plac'd, they may be so order'd as not to take one Days Work from our own Poor—On the contrary, they will in Process of a little, very little Time, encrease the Labour of our own Poor, and find Work for those that live round them.

I know, some People object, that the Consumption of the Produce of our Land at home, is no Addition to our publick Stock; because as the growing Crop gives an Encrease of Value, so that Value upon the Consumption, sinks again at home; and what *A*. gets from *B*. is still gotten from what was before; and shifting Hands only, neither adds or diminishes from the general Wealth.

But if I were to grant this, yet it must be allow'd, that when more People come over, the Circulation and Addition of our own Growth, among these new Comers, is an Encrease; and all they do here, which was not done here before, either of Gain or Improvement, is an Encrease. For Example.

If an Acre of Land be enclos'd and improv'd, which lay waste before—All that

this Acre of Land will yield now, so enclos'd, more than it would before, is so much Addition to the publick Wealth of the Nation, or the general Stock—Only it remains to object, that whereas the *Hand* or the *Labour* that was employ'd to enclose and improve this Acre of Land, was employ'd before; this is no Gain, because that *Hand* is wanted where it was employ'd before, and the Gain is only transpos'd; rais'd here, and sunk before.

This manifests the great Argument of the Wealth of People—For if a Foreigner comes over that was never here before, and he encloses and improves a Piece of Land, which was never improv'd before—I say then, that All, that Land will lett or sell for more now, than it would lett or sell for before, is clear Gain to the publick Stock. Nay, all that this Land will produce, more than it would produce before, whether Corn, Cattle, or Wool, excepting only what the poor Foreigner and his Family, who are the Improvers, must necessarily expend in the Work or in his Subsistence, is clear Gain to the publick Stock—For suppose, this Foreigner gets in twenty Years out of this Land clear, 1000 *l*. besides the Rent he has paid to his Landlord—And has liv'd upon the Farm—Is not all the Rent he has paid, clear'd to the publick Stock, and have we not a Family planted and maintain'd, and 1000 *l*. laid up in *England* more than there was before?

It is impossible to make any thing plainer than this—And the Consequence is evident; While there is a Foot of Land in *England* unimprov'd, we cannot have too many People; and as their Numbers encrease, the Circulation of Trade and Credit, and the Consumption of Produce at home will encrease our Wealth, tho' it be at home; because the Earth is the Fund, which is daily giving out of her Bowels new Stores for the forming a general Stock, and encreasing it. I shall in the next consider a little the *HOW* and *WHERE* these poor People may be settled among us, so as to be most to the publick Advantage, and so as may best make out the Particulars, I have advanc'd in their Behalf.

MISCELLANEA.

I Hope, no Body will treat me so hardly, as to interpret my last Discourse to be a magnifying the Power of the *French*, and lessening the visible Declension of their Affairs— If any should be so unjust, they shall be asham'd of the Slander, before I part with the Argument.

The Affairs of the *French* are without all Dispute very low, the Misery of their Country very great, their Credit, which was the Strength of their Affairs, sunk, and their Money scarce, and I do acknowledge, I was of the Opinion, the King of *France* must comply with your Terms, let them be never so hard, and I do believe so still— He may, however by the Strength of his Money arbitrarily rais'd, and the bringing in the Plate to be coin'd, supply his Expenses for the ensuing Campaign. But it is still my Opinion, and I think it is evident, he will be soon exhausted— This bringing in the Plate is like a City block'd up, that is oblig'd to open the *Grand Magazine*; when this is done, he will find it hard to recruit, and he will try again to make the Breach up, if possible, by a Treaty, or by bringing in some Princes to mediate— For without Dispute he is reduc'd to Extremities.


But this, Gentlemen, gave no Ground to all the Extravagancies we were come up to, and which I repeated in my last; it does not at all follow from hence, that we must run immediately to the Gates of *Paris*, that a *French* Army of 100000 Men must not be worth our Notice, and may be left behind with Safety; or that their strongest Camps may be attack'd without Regard to Scituations or Intrenchments. These are Extravagancies of our own, and I know nothing they serve for, but to assist the *Jacobites* to mock us, and to make our People chagrin and uneasy, when they see the Armies and the Generals do not keep Pace with the whimsical Schemes they have form'd in their Hands.

But to examine the Truth of the Matter, let us see; have we any Reason to be discourag'd at the Posture of our Affairs? Are we really under any Disappointment, but what is first occasion'd by our own wild Notions? We are fallen from no Expectations, but such as were really dilirious and irrational; we are disappointed in nothing we had any Ground to hope for, or could give any Reason for proposing to our selves— If all our imaginary Phantasms are vanish'd, if we thought the *French* would not fight, and yet could not avoid being forc'd to it; if we fancy'd they would find no Fastnesses strong enough to venture a Stand with, if we thought we might venture any thing upon them, or without Regard; if these Extravagancies fill'd your Thoughts, why really, good People, it was your own Faults, and you ought to examine, what Planet govern'd your Imagination, or what Time of the Moon it was— But at the same time it is your Mercy, that your Generals are wiser; and by the same prudent Management by which the War is brought thus far, by the same they are carrying it on to the End we all wish for, I mean, a *Good Peace*— Precipitations and desperate Attempts are for a desperate Cause; it is for the *French* to make some desperate Push, some *Coup d' Eclat*, to retrieve the Honour of their Affairs— The fair Course of Things, and a steady pushing the War in *Flanders*, will break the Heart of the King of *France*— And there is no need to attack them with such Disadvantages, and at such an Expence of Blood, as some People would have us.

'Tis very hard and unjust in those who call this prorogating the War— Such indeed would end the War the *shortest way*; that is, by ruining our Army, attacking like mad Men, and being beaten off like Fools.— Nor do such consider so much as a Possibility of being repuls'd by the Enemy— No, they won't hear of it, as a Thing in
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
Nature; the French beat us off! what beat Prince EUGENE! there is no Danger of that.—I am as forward to magnifie the Gallantry of our Army as any Body; But it is the Wisdom and Policy of our Generals makes the intrepid Valour of our Men formidable, or else all your Gallantry and the Goodness of Troops would be of no Use.—To these it appears impracticable to attack the French in the Camp they have now chosen, and at this we are disappointed, discourag'd, baulk'd, and uneasy.—And now we cry, our Generals are for protracting the War, they live by the Spoil, and are loth to lose their Employments.—They might be at the Walls of Paris if they would, and the like.—And still you may observe, those People that were forwardest in the Rhodomontades I speak of, are now the deepest in the melancholick Part, and quarrel most at the Conduct of our Generals.—This is very hard Usage of Men, that have fought so often, and so bravely, and so fortunately for us, and brought the Enemy to such Terms as we have seen them offer. But of this again in my next

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